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News and Information

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Media Office

Democratic Caucus

John Schorg, Director

Statehouse, Room 157

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

1-800-382-9842 or 1-317-232-9621

Fax Number: 1-317-232-9792

REP. AUSTIN EXPRESSES FRUSTRATION OVER ELWOOD BRANCH CLOSING

INDIANAPOLIS—Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV) Commissioner Joel Silverman announced that nine of the 12 branches that he proposed closing will shut their doors for good. He also said he is looking at closing an additional 24 branches throughout the state.

One of the original BMV branches that has ceased operation is in Elwood. State Rep. Terri Austin (D-Anderson) said she is disappointed in the process of determining which branches would close.

"This whole process has been flawed since the beginning," said Austin. "It seems to be a matter of 'who you know' rather than 'what you know.'"

Three of the BMV branches slated for closing, but given new life, included Hope, Bloomfield and Berne.

Hope is represented by Senate Pro-Tempore Robert Garton (R-Columbus) and Rep. Luke Messer (R-Shelbyville), who is also the executive director of the Indiana Republican Party

During the news conference Silverman was asked if political considerations played a factor in his decision to keep the Hope branch open and he said yes. "There is only one Senate president pro tem," he responded.

"The citizens of Elwood learned an important lesson today," Austin said. "In fact, we all learned an important lesson."